

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 02355 302025Z
ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 IGA-02
COME-00 /029 W

-----012931 010114Z /65

R 301953Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5392

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 2355

EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: EAID, HA
SUBJECT: RIVIANA'S PROBLEMS CAUSED BY ITS AGENT

REF: (A) PORT AU PRINCE 2165, (B) STATE 147693

1. SUMMARY. RIVIANA'S LOSSES ON THE ABORTED RICE SHIPMENT TO HAITI HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE P.L. 480 PROGRAM. THE P.L. 480 TITLE I AMENDMENT PROVIDING HAITI WITH RICE WAS SIGNED ON APRIL 13, 1977. GOH NEGOTIATIONS WITH RIVIANA OCCURRED LATER IN THE MONTH. AN IMPORT LICENSE WAS ISSUED IN LATE APRIL TO RIVIANA'S AGENT FOR 100,000 SACKS OF RICE AND RIVIANA'S AGENT WAS ASKED TO ARRANGE FOR DELIVERY IN LATER SUMMER OR EARLY FALL. EARLIER DELIVERY WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE AS NEITHER FOREIGN EXCHANGE OR WAREHOUSE SPACE WERE AVAILABLE. RIVIANA'S AGENT APPARENTLY IGNORED SPECIFIC GOH DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUESTED DELIVERY IN MAY. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, RIVIANA'S COMPLAINT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO ITS AGENT, NOT THE GOH OR THE USG. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED RIVIANA'S PROBLEMS WITH OFFICIALS OF GOH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE JUNE 27. APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS AFTE THE TITLE I AGREEMENT WAS AMENDED TO PROVIDE HAITI WITH 10,000 TONS OF RICE, THE GOH DECIDED THAT ADDITIONAL RICE WOULD BE NEEDED IN LATE
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SUMMER OR EARLY FALL. AN IMPORT LICENSE WAS ISSUED TO RIVIANA'S AGENT IN LATE APRIL. HE WAS FULLY AWARE THAT WAREHOUSE SPACE WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL LATE SUMMER OR EARLY FALL. DESPITE THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS OF THE GOH, RIVIANA'S AGENT ARRANGED FOR DELIVERY IN MAY AND TRIED TO OPEN A LETTER OF CREDIT. THE NATIONAL BANK WAS SHORT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND REFUSED TO OPEN THE LETTER

OF CREDIT.

3. THE GOH VALUES ITS RELATIONS WITH RIVIANA AND PLANS TO CONTINUE PURCHASING RICE FROM IT. INDEED, IT CONSIDERS THE IMPORT LICENSE ISSUED IN APRIL TO RIVIANA'S AGENT VALID AND STILL HOPES TO GET THE RICE IT WANTS BUT ONLY WHEN IT WANTS IT, IN LATE SUMMER OR EARLY FALL. THE GOH HAS BEEN IMPORTING LARGE QUANTITIES OF GRAINS, STORAGE CAPACITY IS LIMITED, AND THE GOH DOES HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WITH ITS FOREIGN EXCHANGE EXPENDITURES.

4. IMPORTING RICE IS A MOST LUCRATIVE BUSINESS IN HAITI AND THE EMBASSY CAN UNDERSTAND THE ENTHUSIASM OF RIVIANA'S AGENT. NEVERTHELESS, HE DID IGNORE THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS OF THE PURCHASER AND CAUSED RIVIANA'S LOSSES. RIVIANA'S LOSSES HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE P.L. 480 PROGRAM AS ALLEGED AND WERE NOT CAUSED BY THE GOH.

5. COMMERCE OFFICIALS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THAT RIVIANA AVOIDED LOSSES ON THE RICE IN QUESTION BY SELLING IT ELSEWHERE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RICE, TRADE COMPLAINTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTA02355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770234-0796
Format: TEL
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977063/aaaaabyy.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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TAGS: EAID, HA, RIVIANA INTERNATIONAL INC
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